

Following is a **marked** version of the amendments to the application with all changes shown in conventional comparison:

#### **IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 1 with the following paragraph:

#### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

A support device similar to this is described, for example, in EP 0 322 634 A2 and is illustrated as Fig. 7 and labeled as "Prior Art." Fig. 7 illustrates a semi-trailer 23 having a supporting device 24 which as known to one of ordinary skill in the art includes a support foot 28 attached to an inner sleeve 26 which is expandable and/or retractable in outer sleeve 25 through an actuator, such as crank 27. A component, which sustains a bearing sleeve, is attached, i.e. by welding, at the bottom end of the expandable and/or retractable support element of each support. This component comprises two legs that are angled downward and facing one another. The bearing sleeve is welded to the longitudinal edges of these legs. A rotatable hollow shaft, to which two rolling segments are attached, is supported in the bearing sleeve. The surfaces of the rolling segments allow them to roll off of the footplate when the supports move forward when the semi-trailer is detached.

Please replace the fourth full paragraph on page 5 with the following paragraph:

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Fig.1            | a vertical section through the foot receiving device,   |
| Figs. 2, 3 and 4 | a top view, a section through and a side view of the foot-receiving device,   |
| Figs. 5a, b      | perspective view and cross-section view of a further design   |
| Figs. 6a, b      | cross section and top view of a further design  |
| Fig. 6c          | the design shown in Figs. 6a, b, when installed.  |
| <u>Fig. 7</u>    | <u>is a perspective view of a prior art support device including an outer sleeve, an inner sleeve which is extendable and/or retractable in the</u> |

outer sleeve through a crank, and a support foot attached to the inner sleeve, with the outer sleeve of the support device connected to a semi-trailer.

### REMARKS

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) as reference character "21" has been used to designate both the support foot and the foot plate. The Applicant herewith submits a proposed drawing correction of Fig. 1 wherein reference character (21) has been replaced with --20-- in order to properly designate the support foot. Once the proposed drawing correction has been accepted by the Examiner, the Applicant will submit a corrected copy of the drawing.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure under 37 CFR 1.71, as being so incomprehensible as to preclude a reasonable search of the prior art by the Examiner. Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner states that the Applicant does not show the outer sleeve and fails to disclose how the device supports a semi-trailer. In addition, the Examiner states that the Applicant claims a telescopic inner sleeve, but the gearing that allows the inner sleeve to telescope is not shown, nor is its location shown.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Specification of the present invention as well as the claims thereof are written in a clear, concise manner and that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to make and use the invention disclosed therein by the inventor. One of ordinary skill in the art has knowledge that supporting devices in general are commonly utilized to support the front end of a semi-trailer when not attached to a tractor. It is further known to one of ordinary skill in the art that such support devices commonly employ an outer sleeve which is attached to the semi-trailer, and a telescopic inner sleeve, telescopically movable in and out of said outer sleeve utilizing an actuator such as a crank and appropriate gearing as known in the art, in order to raise or lower the respective end of a semi-trailer.

As stated in the second paragraph of the Specification on page 1, a support device known to one of ordinary skill in the art is set forth in EP 0 322 634 A2. Fig. 1 of the EP '634 reference illustrates a semi-trailer having a supporting device connected to the front end thereto. As illustrated, the supporting device 13 includes outer sleeve 14

and inner sleeve 16 which is telescopically moveable in and out of the outer sleeve 14 through crank 15. A prior art support foot 17 is also illustrated.

In order to further clarify the Specification and claims of the present invention, Fig. 7 is presented with this amendment and labeled as "Prior Art." Fig. 7 substantially corresponds to Fig. 1 of the EP '634 reference. Fig. 7 is utilized to illustrate a prior art support device similar to that of the present invention. The Specification has also been amended to state that Fig. 7 illustrates a semi-trailer 23 having a supporting device 24 which as known to one of ordinary skill in the art includes a support foot 28 attached to an inner sleeve 26 which is expandable and/or retractable in the outer sleeve 25 through an actuator, such as crank 27. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the disclosure and claims of the present invention are described in a full, clear, concise manner utilizing exact terms which enable one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to make and use the invention, especially the best mode contemplated by the inventor for carrying out the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the 37 CFR 1.71 and 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejections have been addressed and overcome with this response. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding the same, a telephone call to the undersigned is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**HUDAK, SHUNK & FARINE CO. LPA**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Hudak, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

By: Daniel J. Hudak, Jr.  
Registration No. 47,669

2020 Front Street  
Suite 307  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221  
Telephone: (330) 535-2220 Facsimile: (330)-535-1435

Attorney Docket No.: FMW-EE-PCT-US